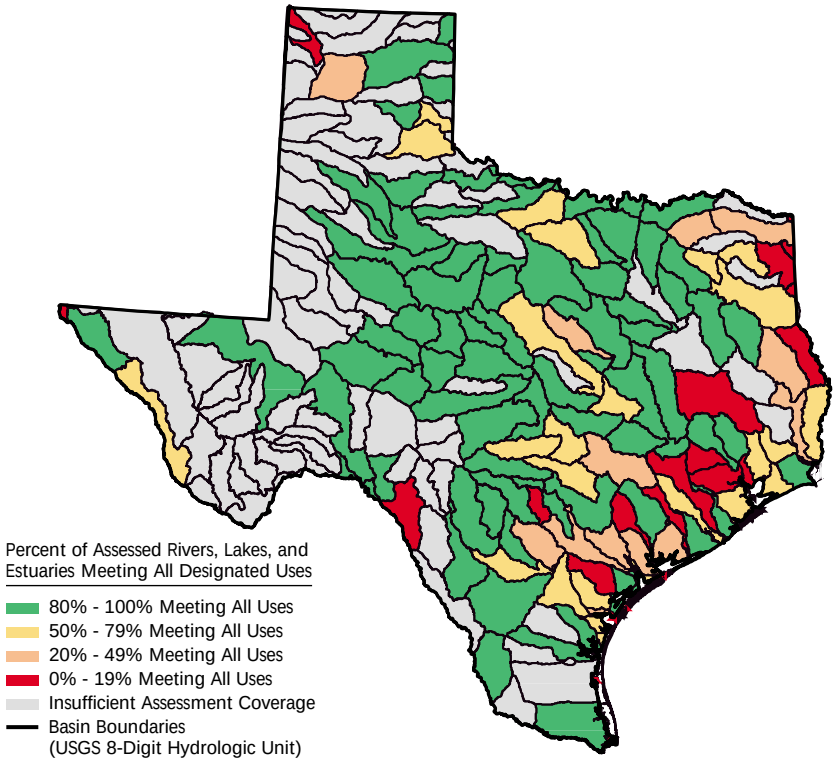
Texas



For a copy of the Texas 1998 305(b) report, contact:

Steve Twidwell
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087
(512) 239-4607
e-mail: stwidwel@tnrcc.state.tx.us

Surface Water Quality

About 91% of the assessed stream miles fully support aquatic life uses, 3% partially support these uses, and 6% do not support aquatic life uses. Swimming is impaired in about 26% of the assessed rivers and streams. The most common pollutants degrading rivers and streams are bacteria, metals, and oxygen-depleting substances. Major sources of pollution include municipal sewage treatment plants, agricultural runoff, and urban runoff.

In reservoirs, 89% of the assessed surface acres fully support aquatic life uses, 7% partially support these uses, and 4% do not support aquatic life uses. Of the assessed lake acres, 97% fully support swimming. The most common problems in reservoirs are metals, low dissolved oxygen, and elevated bacteria concentrations. Major sources that contribute to nonsupport of uses include atmospheric deposition, natural sources (e.g., high temperature and shallow conditions), municipal sewage treatment plants, industrial point sources, and urban runoff.

The leading problem in estuaries is bacteria that contaminate shellfish beds. Sixty-one percent of the surveyed estuarine waters fully support shellfishing use, 23% partially support this use, and 16% do not support shellfishing.

Texas did not report on the condition of wetlands.

Ground Water Quality

About 41% of the municipal water is obtained from ground water sources in Texas. Identified ground water contaminant sources include storage tanks, surface impoundments, landfills, septic systems, and natural sources. The most commonly reported ground water contaminants from human activities are gasoline, diesel, and other petroleum products. Less commonly reported contaminants include volatile organic compounds and pesticides. The degradation of ground water quality from natural sources probably has a greater effect than do all anthropogenic sources combined.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) uses a basin approach to water resource management with the Clean Rivers Program (CRP). The cooperative TNRCC/CRP program is a long-term, comprehensive, and integrated

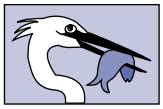
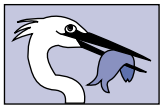
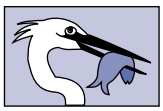
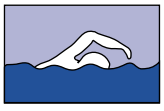
approach aimed at improving coordination of natural resource functions within the agency.

Implementation of coordinated basin monitoring is one of the priorities of the program. The goal of this activity is to provide a process in which monitoring groups will coordinate their activities with the TNRCC. Coordinated monitoring meetings are held in each of the 23 basins every spring to bring together key monitoring groups (state agencies, river authorities, cities, volunteer groups, U.S. Geological Survey, Corps of Engineers, etc.). At the meetings, schedules are cooperatively developed for fixed-station and special study monitoring to reduce duplication of effort, consolidate sampling and analysis protocols, and improve spatial coverage of monitoring sites.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

The TNRCC samples about 450 fixed stations as part of its Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program (SWQMP). The TNRCC samples different parameters and varies the frequency of sampling at each site to satisfy different needs. The TNRCC also conducts intensive surveys to evaluate potential impacts from point source dischargers during low flow conditions and special studies to investigate specific sources and pollutants. About 3,000 citizens also perform volunteer environmental monitoring in the Texas Watch Program.

Individual Use Support in Texas

Designated Use[a]		Percent: Good (Fully Supporting)	Good (Threatened)	Fair (Partially Supporting)	Poor (Not Supporting)	Not Attainable
Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 191,228)[b]						
	Total Miles Assessed	91	0	3	6	<1
	13,634					
		33	0	14	53	0
	445					
		73	0	7	19	<1
	13,505					
Lakes (Total Acres = 3,065,600)						
	Total Acres Assessed	89	0	7	4	0
	1,318,719					
		25	0	75	<1	0
	448,155					
		97	0	0	3	0
	1,240,232					
Estuaries (Total Square Miles = 1,991)						
	Total Square Miles Assessed	92	0	7	1	0
	1,914					
		94	0	0	6	0
	648					
		61	0	23	16	0
	1,900					
		100	0	<1	<1	0
	1,932					

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

[a] A subset of Texas' designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the state's 305(b) report for a full description of the state's uses.

[b] Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.